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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends UNPROFOR be replaced by separate but inter-linked peace-keeping operations in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; says arrangement would respond to wishes of those countries, without compromising United Nations presence in theatre.

+ Secretary-General meets with China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States to discuss deteriorating situation in Burundi.

+ Bosnian Government presses offensive against strategic positions north and east of Tuzla; Bosnian Serbs fire 12 mortar rounds into Gorazde safe area, killing one child.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks must answer urgent questions of conservation and management, Chairman says; Canada and European Union among speakers today.

+ Commission on Narcotic Drugs concludes thirty-eighth session by adopting 20 resolutions; recommends regulatory measures dealing with money laundering and trade in chemicals used to manufacture illicit drugs.

+ Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves draft resolution asking Secretary-General to proceed with establishment of unified conference-serving facility in Vienna.

+ Human Rights Committee considers special report on situation in Haiti; experts question power of civilian institutions to seek redress for victims.

+ Conference on Disarmament agrees to establish ad hoc committee to negotiate treaty banning production of fissile material.

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For information media—not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) be replaced by three separate but inter-linked peace-keeping operations. In a report to the Security Council dated 22 March, he proposed that United Nations Peace Forces One (UNPF-1), Two (UNPF-2) and Three (UNPF-3) be established in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia respectively. That arrangement would respond to the wishes of the three countries, without compromising the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of an integrated United Nations peace-keeping presence in the theatre.

Each of the three operations would be headed by a civilian chief of mission at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, and would have its own military commander, the Secretary-General continued. However, the Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia would have overall command and control. The theatre headquarters -- United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (UNPF-HQ) -- would be in Zagreb, where administrative, logistical and public information responsibilities would be coordinated.

The Secretary-General recommended the negotiation of a new mandate and functions for UNPF-1, which would be significantly smaller than the existing UNPROFOR presence in Croatia. UNPF-1 would support implementation of the cease-fire agreement of 29 March 1994, the economic agreement of 2 December 1994, and relevant elements of the existing United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia. Its mandate would extend until 30 November. UNPF-2 and UNPF-3 would have the same responsibilities and composition as UNPROFOR had at present in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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The Secretary-General met this morning with the Permanent Representatives of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States to discuss the situation in Burundi. A United Nations spokesman said the situation had deteriorated considerably in recent days, although a measure of calm had returned on Sunday evening. Violence had claimed from 200 to 500 lives, according to unconfirmed reports, and there had been an exodus of people from Bujumbura.

The spokesman went on to say that the Secretary-General was very concerned about those developments, noting that this morning's meeting was at his request.

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Fighting continued today to the north and east of Tuzla as the Bosnian Government pressed its offensive against strategic positions held by the Bosnian Serbs, according to a United Nations spokesman. On Saturday, Bosnian Serb forces fired 12 mortar rounds into the Gorazde safe area, killing a child and injuring at least six civilians. A similar number of mortar rounds landed in East Mostar at around the same time, but UNPROFOR was unable to establish responsibility for that attack.

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The spokesman said UNPROFOR had not called for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air support as a result of Saturday's incidents. However, he stressed that the Force would not hesitate to call for such support when justified, on a case-by-case basis, and bearing in mind the ultimate objective of protecting civilians and not putting any more lives at risk.

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The international community expects answers to the urgent problems of conservation and management facing the world's fisheries, the Chairman of the Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks said today. Opening the Conference's session, Satya Nandan (Fiji) said global solutions must be found to bring order to the oceans and to promote cooperation among States. Recent incidents involving fishing vessels on the high seas underscored the urgency of the task ahead, but must not become an impediment to the negotiations.

Canada's Minister for Fisheries, Brian Tobin, said that without effective high-seas enforcement, the international community would have done nothing to eliminate the destruction caused by overfishing. The conditions of the world's fisheries had worsened in the last year, yet some States continued to fish irresponsibly, fishing whatever, wherever and however they could.

The Commissioner for Fisheries of the European Community, Emma Bonino, said effective conservation could only be achieved if measures taken on the high seas were compatible with those taken within national waters. Due regard must be taken of the interests, rights and obligations of all States concerned. If States asserted unilateral jurisdiction on the high seas, it would seriously undermine the legal regime established by the Law of the Sea Convention.

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The Commission on Narcotic Drugs has concluded its thirty-eighth session in Vienna by adopting 20 resolutions without a vote. One resolution on money laundering urged States to require or encourage financial institutions to report suspicious transactions. It also encouraged them to set up national organizations to collect, review and analyze data on such transactions, with a view to sharing information with competent authorities.

Another resolution dealt with the international trade in precursors and chemicals used to manufacture illicit drugs. It specified the information that should be shared by countries exporting or importing psychotropic substances, including precursors of amphetamines and LSD. It called on those countries to investigate suspicious transactions and to cooperate with international authorities in stopping shipments when there was evidence of diversion into illegal channels.

The Commission also approved a revised budget of over $190 million for the International Drug Control Programme for the 1994-1995 biennium, and took note of an outline for a $151-million budget for 1996-1997. It also called on States to substantially increase their contributions to the fund for the Programme.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved a draft resolution asking the Secretary-General to proceed with the establishment of a unified conference-serving facility in Vienna. That action would be taken within existing resources, taking into account increased income from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for services provided by the United Nations.

By the draft, the General Assembly would note that the proposed single facility would result in an estimated net additional cost of almost $325,000. The Secretary-General would be requested to examine the feasibility of contracting out elements of conference services at Headquarters and at all duty stations in order to achieve further cost efficiency in future programme budgets.

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Experts of the Human Rights Committee this morning called into question the power of civilian institutions in Haiti to seek redress for victims of human rights abuses committed during the period of military rule. They cited, in particular, institutions such as the judiciary and the newly established National Commission on Truth and Justice, and expressed concern about victims of sexual crimes.

Carole Denerville, Secretary of State for Justice for Haiti, introduced her country's report on the human rights situation following the restoration of constitutional government. She said the National Commission had been set up to make public the whole truth about human rights violations in order to ensure redress for the victims. It would address individual and institutional responsibility for those crimes, and develop an understanding of their historical causes.

While some members called for tolerance in consideration of the special circumstances in Haiti, others expressed great disappointment over the report's failure to describe the actual situation in the country. Members stressed that the Committee needed to know what problems were being faced by the Government and people of Haiti and what was being done to address them. Of specific concern were the problems of the police, the judiciary and election planning.

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The Conference on Disarmament has agreed to establish an ad hoc committee to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It took that action in Geneva on Friday, by adopting a report by Special Coordinator Gerald Shannon (Canada).

The Special Coordinator stated that the Conference could establish the ad hoc committee under a mandate based on General Assembly resolution 48/75L. Delegations had agreed during consultations that the mandate did not preclude consideration of the appropriate scope of the treaty, future and past production, and the management of fissile material.

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